

10/16/20

To the House Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety, Duty #1

Dear Committee,

The laws are currently in place to prevent the transfer of firearms to felons. No more burdensome and redundant laws are needed.

Any anti-gun "statistics" published by anti-gun groups such as Everytown for Gun Safety, Violence Policy Center, The Brady Campaign, are half-truths at best but mostly outright lies. As an example, they state That there are 32,000-gun related deaths per year by firearms, and this number is not disputed. Average U.S. population 324,059,091. Do the math: 0.00987% of the population dies from gun related actions each year. Statistically speaking, this is insignificant!

What is never told, however, is a breakdown of those 32,000 deaths, to put them in perspective as compared to other causes of death:• 65% of those deaths are by suicide which would never be prevented by gun laws• 15% are by law enforcement in the line of duty and justified• 17% are through criminal activity, gang and drug related or mentally ill persons – gun violence• 3% are accidental discharge deaths.

So technically, "gun violence" is not 32,000 annually, but drops to 5,100. Still too many? Well, first, how are those deaths spanned across the nation?• 480 homicides (9.4%) were in Chicago• 344 homicides (6.7%) were in Baltimore• 333 homicides (6.5%) were in Detroit• 119 homicides (2.3%) were in Washington D.C. (a 54% increase over prior years)So basically, 25% of all gun crime happens in just 4 cities. All 4 of those cities have strict gun laws, so it is not the lack of law that is the root cause.

This basically leaves 3,825 for the entire rest of the nation, or about 75 deaths per state. That is an average because some States have much higher rates than others. For example, California had 1,169 and Alabama had 1. Now, who has the strictest gun laws by far? California, of course, but understand, so it is not guns causing this. It is a crime rate spawned by the number of criminal persons residing in those cities and states. So if all cities and states are not created equally, then there must be something other than the tool causing the gun deaths.

Are 5,100 deaths per year horrific? How about in comparison to other deaths? All death is sad and especially so when it is in the commission of a crime but that is the nature of crime. Robbery, death, rape, assault all is done by criminals and thinking that criminals will obey laws is ludicrous. That's why they are criminals.

But what about other deaths each year?• 40,000+ die from a drug overdose–• 36,000 people die per year from the flu, far exceeding the criminal gun deaths• 34,000 people die per year in traffic fatalities(exceeding gun deaths even if you include suicide)Now it gets good:• 200,000+ people die each year (and growing) from preventable medical errors. You are safer in Chicago than when you are in a hospital! • 710,000 people die per year from heart disease. It's time to stop the double cheeseburgers! So what is the point? If the anti-gun movement focused their attention on heart disease, even a 10% decrease in cardiac deaths would save twice the number of lives annually of all gun-related deaths. A 10% reduction in medical errors would be 66% of the total gun deaths or 4 times the number of criminal homicides. Simple, easily preventable 10% reductions!

So you have to ask yourself, in the grand scheme of things, why the focus on guns? It's pretty simple. Taking away guns gives control to governments. The founders of this nation knew that regardless of the form of government, those in power may become corrupt and seek to rule as the British did by trying to disarm the populace of the colonies. It is not difficult to understand that a disarmed populace is a

controlled populace. Thus, the second amendment was proudly and boldly included in the U.S. Constitution. It must be preserved.

To realistically protect the lives of Texans, the following needs to happen:

#1: Armed citizens save lives. Repealing “gun-free zones” would be a big step in the right direction to ending mass gun violence.

#2: pass Constitutional Carry. This allows those who may legally possess a handgun to carry it open or concealed without a license. It is recognized by over a fourth of US states (Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming) -- with more added each year. Over 30 states allow unlicensed open carry.

Constitutional Carry makes people safer: “The five states in 2013 that allowed concealed carry without a permit had much lower murder and violent crime rates than the five jurisdictions with the lowest permit rates. Indeed, the murder rate was 33 percent lower in the states not requiring permits. The violent crime rate was 32 percent lower.” (Crime Prevention Research Center, www.crimeresearch.org). This also repeals Jim Crow-era prohibitions (current law prohibiting handgun carry dates to the 1860’s with racist roots) and does not allow prohibited people (such as gang members and felons) to carry handguns.

Constitutional Carry Upholds the right to life and the right to self-defense -- fundamental rights which should not be denied any citizen who can legally own a handgun. Constitutional Carry and the end to “gun-free zones” - The best and most common-sense method to address and prevent mass gun violence.

Sincerely,
Jeff Chan